Development of one seater Defence Aircraft* by India and Russia

†1398. SHRIMATISAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Russia have offered to develop one seater defence aircrafts in collaboration with India for strengthening the Indian air force and removing the outdated aircrafts from the fleet of Indian air force; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Joint development of fifth generation aircraft has been identified as a possible area of co-operation between India and Russia. The details of the projects have not been worked out.

Upgradation of 130 mm Field Guns

1399. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item in Frontline dated the 16th August, 2002 regarding "Upgradation of 130mm Field Guns to 155mm 45 caliber";

(b) if so, the progress made in the execution of the project;

(c) whether there are any shortfall in the upgradation programme; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures which are being taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The upgraded gun systems underwent successful confirmatory trials in August, 2002. The technical issues have been resolved.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.